

times in length of head, 1 to $1\frac{1}{4}$ times in interorbital width, and a little exceeds præorbital depth; mouth extending to between nostril and eye; teeth small, in 3 or 4 series, 40 to 60 in outer series of upper jaw; 3 or 4 series of scales on the cheek, width of scaly part a little less than diameter of eye. Gill-rakers short, tubercular, 7 to 9 on lower part of anterior arch. Dorsal XIV-XVI 9-11; spines increasing in length to the last, which measures $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head; longest soft rays shorter than head. Anal III 7-8; third spine as long as last dorsal. Pectoral $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ length of head, not reaching origin of anal. Ventral produced into a filament, reaching vent, origin of anal, or a little beyond. Caudal rounded. Caudal peduncle a little deeper than long. Scales cycloid, 27-29 $\frac{2-2\frac{1}{2}}{10-11}$; lateral lines $\frac{18-21}{7-9}$. Brown above, yellowish beneath; a more or less distinct dark band from the eye to the root of the caudal, crossed by 7 to 9 rather faint dark bars, which expand into round black spots where they meet the lateral band on the caudal part of the body; dorsal with round dark spots and a black and white edge; anal with round dark spots, which often form oblique bands; caudal with numerous dark bars, the upper rays with a black and white edge; ventrals white.

Total length 105 mm.

Several specimens. Also obtained by Mr. Bates in the Ja and Bumbe Rivers.

Very closely allied to *P. nigrofasciatus*, Pellegr. Distinguished by fewer gill-rakers and by the coloration.

VIII.—*On the Presence of Two closely allied Species of Toads of the Genus Nectophryne in Cameroon.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

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A FEW years ago Mr. G. L. Bates pointed out to me that two distinct though very closely allied species of *Nectophryne* occur together near Bitye, and are to be distinguished by the shape of the snout. I felt some diffidence at first in proposing a new name for the individuals differing from Peters's figure of *N. afra* by the shorter and less prominent snout; but a considerable number of specimens since received from Mr. Bates compel me to endorse his opinion that the Bitye specimens should be referred to two species; the short-snouted

requires a name, than which one recalling its discoverer could not be more appropriate.

The outline-figures here given sufficiently indicate the difference between the two species. The snout of *N. batesii*, sp. n., is shorter than that of *N. afra*, and, seen from below, projects far less considerably beyond the mouth; seen in profile, it is much less obliquely truncate. I have failed to detect any other differences, but I note that the markings are subject to much less variation in *N. batesii* than in *N. afra*, and that the belly and the lower surface of the limbs are always uniform yellow or yellowish white, brown spots or



Head of *Nectophryne afra*.

Head of *Nectophryne batesii*.

marblings, if present, being confined to the throat and breast. Upper parts pale pinkish brown to dark brown, with three or four more or less distinct darker blotches on the head and back, one of which often forms a bar on the sacral region; sides of back often lighter; a dark band on the loreal and temporal regions; hind limbs sometimes with ill-defined dark cross-bands. The largest specimen measures 25 mm. from snout to vent.

N. batesii is only known from the neighbourhood of Bitye, on the Ja River (Congo System), where *N. afra* is also common. Of the latter species I have examined specimens from Spanish Guinea, Cameroon (Kribi, Akok, Efulen, Zima Country, Bitye), Fernando Po, and Southern Nigeria (Oban hills).

Bearing in mind that some of the East-African species of *Nectophryne* are known to be viviparous, I have opened several females of both *N. afra* and *N. batesii*, the belly of which was distended with ripe ova; these, of enormously large size ($2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in specimens measuring 20 to 25 mm. from snout to vent), showed, however, no sign of development. Mr. Bates has sent me a specimen, a female *M. batesii* with

empty oviducts, found by him at Bitye, Aug. 12, 1909, under the trough or hollow of a plantain-leaf petiole, crouched in the midst of a mass of eggs. It is therefore pretty certain that this species is not viviparous, and that the eggs develop on land without the young passing through a larval stage.

IX.—*Description of a new Snake discovered by Mr. A. E. Pratt in Eastern Peru.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

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Leptognathus latifasciatus.

Body strongly compressed. Eye large, its diameter double its distance from the oral border. Rostral a little broader than deep, just visible from above; internasals half as long as the præfrontals; frontal slightly broader than long, shorter than its distance from the end of the snout, half as long as the parietals; nasal divided; loreal as long as deep, bordering the eye; a præocular, separating the præfrontal from the eye; two postoculars; temporals 2+3 or 1+3; nine upper labials, fourth, fifth, and sixth entering the eye; first two pairs of lower labials forming a suture behind the symphysial; three pairs of chin-shields, nearly as long as broad. Scales in 15 rows, vertebrals strongly enlarged, but not broader than long. Ventrals 191; anal entire; subcaudals 106. Anterior part of body with broad blackish-brown annuli separated by cream-coloured interspaces two scales in width; further back the blackish annuli are interrupted on the belly, and towards the posterior part of the body they become narrower and white-edged, separated by broad reddish-brown interspaces; belly closely speckled and spotted with blackish-brown, uniform brown behind; head dark brown above, with yellowish dots and vermicular lines; upper lip with narrow white vertical bars.

Total length 430 mm.; tail 125.

A single specimen, from the Upper Marañon.

Closely allied to *L. peruana*, Boettg., and *L. variegata*, D. & B.

This is the second species of *Leptognathus* discovered by Mr. Pratt, a *L. pratti*, from the Andes of Colombia, having been described by me in these 'Annals' in 1897.